

WEATHER REPORT.

INDICATIONS FOR TO-DAY.—For the Middle States, rising barometer, diminishing west to northwest winds, stationary or rising temperature, and clear or partly cloudy weather will prevail, followed in the latter by falling barometer and variable winds. About the South Atlantic States, falling barometer, stationary or rising temperature, north to east winds, and generally cloudy weather and rain.

Cautionary signals continue at Galveston, New Orleans, and Mobile, and ordered for St. Mark's, Key West, and Jacksonville.

THE WEATHER YESTERDAY was clear and quite cool.

Thermometer YESTERDAY: 3 P. M., 36; 9 A. M., 42; noon, 51; 3 P. M., 48; 6 P. M., 45; midnight, 34.

LOCAL MATTERS.

THE FIRE RECORD.—The alarm of fire sounded yesterday at 2 o'clock P. M. from station 32 was occasioned by the partial burning of the residence of Mrs. J. D. Smith, at the corner of Franklin and Twelfth streets. Companies C and P of the Fire Department responded promptly, and the flames were soon suppressed. The fire originated on the roof, as is supposed, from sparks. The loss is about \$200—fully covered by insurance in the Virginia and Marine Insurance Company.

At 10 o'clock M., some excitement was occasioned in the neighborhood of Tenth and Main streets by the burning of a kettle of tar which some workmen were using on the roof of the store of John H. Tyler & Co. The members of the Tenth-Street Hose Company put out the fire without sounding the alarm.

Monday night a tenement-house on the farm of Mr. R. L. Butler, occupied by E. C. Richardson, on the Creighton road, about three miles from the city, was destroyed by fire. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. The property was uninsured.

CONSERVATIVE CAUCUS THIS AFTERNOON.—By reference to the following notice from General W. H. F. Lee it will be seen that there will be a conference of the Conservatives of the General Assembly this afternoon in the hall of the House of Delegates.

A conference of the Conservative members of the General Assembly will be held this (Wednesday) afternoon at 4 o'clock, in the hall of the House of Delegates.

W. H. F. Lee, Chairman.

It is particularly noteworthy that every Conservative member should be present, as business of interest will be transacted, and it is probable that it will be the last conference before the adjournment of the Legislature.

THE EXHIBIT NOT SOLD.—The type, fixtures, presses, engine, boiler, &c., of the Richmond Enquirer were advertised to be sold yesterday under an order of the City Circuit Court. The office-articles were sold, but the engine and boiler, Messrs. Clements & Jones purchasing the latter for \$225. The type, presses, books, good-will, &c., were not sold.

OPERATION OF THE TELEPHONE.—COUNCILMAN LESTER TO ATTEND.—This evening from 4 to 6 o'clock, at the Second station-house, Captain Burgwyn will give an exhibition of the operation of the Bell telephone on a line from the station-house to the City Almshouse. The members of the Council have been invited to be present.

RESULT OF THE FIREMEN'S BALL.—The firemen are pretty well satisfied with the pecuniary results of the ball, but still have not yet secured a sufficient sum with which to purchase the overcoats and boots. The net proceeds of the ball were \$900. A committee has been appointed, consisting of Chief-Engineer G. A. Ainslie, Captains G. W. Taylor and M. T. Phillips, to wait upon the several insurance companies in the city and ask for contributions sufficient to meet the end desired.

MORTUARY REPORT.—The following is the mortuary report for the week ending Saturday, February 23d, compiled from sextons' returns received at the office of the Board of Health:

Causes of Death: Apoplexy, 1 white; burns and scalds, 2 colored; congestion of stomach, 1 white; congestion of brain, 1 white; consumption, 4 colored; convulsions, 1 colored; convulsions (infantile), 1 white; 1 colored; cutaneous diseases, 2 white; fever (scarlet), 2 white; fracture of spine, 1 white; gangrene, 1 colored; hemorrhage of stomach, 1 white; hemoptysis, 1 colored; infantile old age, 1 white; marasmus, 1 colored; old age, 1 white; paralysis, 1 colored; pneumonia, 1 colored; total, 21. Whole number of deaths in the city, exclusive of still-births, 27. Still-births: White female, 1; colored male, 1; colored female, 2—total, 4. Sex: White males, 6; colored males, 7—total, 13. White females, 7; colored females, 10—total, 17. Age: One day to thirty, 1 white, 1 colored—total, 2; one month to six, 1 white, 1 colored—total, 2; six months to twelve, 1 colored; one year to three, 2 white, 1 colored—total, 3; three years to five, 1 colored; five years to ten, 1 white, 1 colored—total, 2. Sex: One day to twenty years to thirty, 1 white, 1 colored—total, 2; thirty years to forty, 1 white, 1 colored—total, 2; forty years to fifty, 2 white; fifty years to sixty, 2 colored; sixty years to seventy, 2 colored; seventy years to eighty, 2 white; eighty years to ninety, 1 white, 1 colored—total, 8. Marriages, 4 colored; widowers, 1 white; widows, 8 white, 1 colored—total, 13. Nativity: Richmond, 14; other parts of the United States, 12; Ireland, 1. Locality: Marshall Ward, 1 white, 2 colored; total, 3; Clay Ward, 2 white, 3 colored—total, 5; Madison Ward, 2 white, 3 colored—total, 5; Monroe Ward, 1 white, 1 colored—total, 2; Jackson Ward, 1 colored; almshouse, 1 white, 1 colored—total, 2; penitentiary, 1 colored.

COMPARATIVE WEEKLY MORTALITY.

Week Ending	Feb. 24, Feb. 23, 1878	Feb. 24, Feb. 23, 1877	Feb. 24, Feb. 23, 1876
Total deaths	27	16	14
White	13	10	11
Colored	14	6	3

Mean temperature for week ending February 16th, 45.43°; mean temperature for week ending February 23d, 53.00°.

Amount of rainfall for week ending February 16th, 0.48 inches; amount of rainfall for week ending February 23d, 0.04 inches.

Population of city estimated by school census, 77,506—white, 44,400; colored, 33,100. Rate of mortality of whole population was 18.11 per 1,000 per annum; rate of mortality of white population was 15.22 per 1,000 per annum; rate of mortality of colored population was 21.99 per 1,000 per annum.

TEN DAYS IN JAIL AND TEN LASHES.—Robert Woodson, Sr., and Robert Woodson, Jr., were before Justice John N. Hopkins of Henrico county, yesterday, charged with having stolen a lot of chickens. They were found guilty and sentenced to jail for ten days and to receive ten lashes.

PENITENTIARY LEASE.—The House has passed by a substitute therefor, Senate bill providing for a lease of the penitentiary. The principal officials of the institution are to be retained.

RICHMOND AFTER DARK.

HOW THE CITY LOOKS UNDER THE GAS-LIGHT—UP-TOWN AND DOWN-TOWN, AT THE WHARVES AND DEPOTS AND THE PLACES OF AMUSEMENT—THE HIGH AND LOW LIFE—A PEEP INTO THE STATION-HOUSES AND MUSIC HALLS—THE HOTELS AND PRINTING-OFFICES, &c., &c.

The staid business-man and merchant, the hard-working mechanic and laborer, and the professional man who prefers his study to worldly pleasures, who retires to his home when night throws her sombre mantle over the busy world, have but little idea of what is transpiring around them when they are wrapped in tranquil slumber. Never going out except to attend divine service, an occasional concert, or to the theatre, possibly to a religious meeting, of some benevolent order, they are in almost total ignorance of what life is in the heart of a large city after dark. Every city has its people who turn night into day—some from necessity, and some from choice—and every city, like individuals, has its well as well as its bright page in its life-history.

Richmond, while not without some claims as a metropolitan city, is fortunately without many of the distinguishing features that characterize and give an unenviable notoriety to other cities in the North, South, and West, with a smaller population and much less importance as a trade-center. Its gambling-houses are fewer in number, and conducted with little or no publicity; it has no low concert-halls, and but few dance-halls, and its disorders are very free from alteration and tumult.

IN THE LOWER PART OF THE CITY.

About dark, or very soon thereafter, the stores on Main street from Ninth to Fifteenth street are closed; from Fifteenth to Seventeenth street, on the south side, the clothing and boot and shoe stores and several drug stores remain open until a late hour; below Seventeenth street the number of stores is few and the amount of business done at night is considerable. In the lower part of the city several night-auctions at tract crowds, and every variety of article, from a paper of pins to an overcoat, is disposed of cheap "for cash," and find ready buyers. The auctions are also attended by men from the country who wish to pass away the time between dark and bed-time. From Ninth street to Eighteenth on Main, and, in fact, on all the principal streets, bars, rooms and restaurants are kept open until midnight, and in a few instances a night. They are patronized by the night crowd, and are largely assisting in liquidating the State debt on the smallest provocation. At many of these places billiards, pool, bagatelle, Jenny Lind, cards, dominoes, and other games occupy the attention of the habitués until the hour for closing arrives. Looking down Main street from the corner of Fifth, or Broad street from the corner of Twelfth, the gas-lights present a bright and beautiful sight. Our city is blessed both in the quantity and quality of its gas.

Contrary to what exists in most cities having either foreign or domestic commerce, our DOCK AND WHARVES present after dark a most peaceful appearance; the quietness of a church-yard pervades that locality, and scenes of disorder are infrequent. The character of the seafaring men casting anchor in this port is, as a general thing, excellent. Around the Cash Corner, on Twelfth and Grace streets, Tenth and Byrd streets, Pink alley, and in some other outlandish localities, at times the most depraved specimens of humanity congregate, dance to mean music, and drink meager whiskey until daylight dawns. A first-class row is raised and the police of the First district disperse the revellers.

The Theatre Comique, on Franklin street near Governor, is frequented nightly by those who do not generally aspire to more expensive amusements. On Saturday nights the attendance is very large. The performance is less objectionable than that at many similar places in other cities. Since the action of Judge Guigon, however, in refusing a license for liquor to be sold on the premises, the scene of disorder that in former times characterized the Comique have been few and far between.

AT THE DEPOTS.

At the southern depot, at Eighth and Byrd streets, on the arrival of the northern and the departure of the southern train, from 11 to about 11:20 P. M., a very busy scene is presented. For a time all is bustle and confusion. For a time the hall is crowded with people, and all quiet. The hackmen drive away, the loungers disperse, and the weary watchman is left alone in his glory. A similar scene is enacted at the Danville depot at 11:15 P. M., at which time the lightning express leaves for Greenville, and the night train for Broad street above Ninth, where a large retail business is done, and where most of the merchants reside over their places of business, the stores are kept open on pleasant nights until a very late hour. The only exception is the Theatre Comique, where they retired to the upper part of the building. They generally have a comfortable fire in the store, and this is a saving in fuel. Occasionally they capture a stray customer, and are repaid for the persistent patient with which they have awaited his coming.

WHEN THE THEATRE IS OPEN

the vicinity of Seventh and Broad streets presents an animated appearance. A great many persons who do not go in lounge around to see those who do. Then the place is infested with idle idlers, who, when the theatre is closed, go out between the acts for "a check." And the number who come out between the acts is legion, and all have different motives—some "to see a man," others to get a draught of fresh air, and the Theatre Comique, as they say, and some, dear, thoughtful fellows—only stop to get bon-bons or oranges for the ladies! They all generally return to their wives and sweethearts tucked with coffee or cloves, and although in the sweetest temper possible, it is not uncommonly happy to see them have and something to sour them. And if the affectionate ladies do not place implicit confidence in their plausible stories and hint that they are making game of them, the naughty men say nothing, but then they are caught on and on of another character that may be found around the Theatre is the impetuous or close-fisted individual who witnesses the performance through the apertures in the doors on the Seventh-street side. Some of these parties can be seen peering through these apertures on the most incident nights of the season. They amuse themselves between the acts whistling "Thou art so near and yet so far."

AT THE STATION-HOUSES,

particularly on Saturday nights, a number of petty offenders are run in. The crimes for which these parties are arrested rarely exceed in magnitude that of indulging too frequently in ardent spirits, and committing the indiscretions consequent upon such a course of folly. Many of these arrested are released as soon as they cool off, others fined a small sum, and others still sent to the Police Court.

Some amusing and some very sad scenes may at times be witnessed at the Police stations after dark. It is only in the heart of the city that there are signs of life and activity after nightfall. On the suburbs a perfect stillness prevails, only broken at times by the baying of some honest watchdog, or the half-demented, half-smothered cry of some chance passer-by, who, finding himself awake, crows because he has nothing else to do.

AT THE HOTELS.

Gathered in the parlors, the billiard-room, and the lobby, can always be found, not only the transient and permanent guests, but persons from all sections of the city, who gather in knots to talk over the news of the day and to discuss the great political problems that may be agitating the country. Here can be seen life in all of its phases; many men of many minds and opinions can be heard on all leading questions of the day and hour. When the General Assembly is in night session the galleries, lobbies, and the corridors are crowded with statesmen, who take an active interest in the affairs of the State. Many of them look upon the night as a time of regret, and go home only to return to their post as early as possible the next day.

At the Christian Women's Mission, on Franklin street, a party of self-sacrificing spirits are engaged in conducting a night-school and in teaching both the old and young ideas how to shoot, and deserve the thanks of the community for their worthy endeavors. At most of the many churches with which our good city is favored services are held Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday nights. These services are well attended, the Word is expounded, and the people exhorted to lay up their treasures in Heaven, and not to place their whole affections on the things of this world.

"Where all that's bright must fade—
The brightest best the fleetest."
On the Basin and Byrd Island, where in former days there were to be seen the rumors of war, all is now quiet at night. The boatman of the present day does not dance and sing like unto the one of the olden time, but at a seasonable hour retires to his downy couch—generally a plank. In the summer time, however, the happy boatmen, away. The only thing in this vicinity that disturbs the quiet of the still night is the busy noise of the great

GALLERIES AND HALLS.

which all through the "long, stilly hours" of the milling season grand exceedingly fine the best that all Virginia produces. Rocketts, Scramenville, Dutchmont, and other places remain open until a late hour; below Seventeenth street the number of stores is few and the amount of business done at night is considerable. In the lower part of the city several night-auctions at tract crowds, and every variety of article, from a paper of pins to an overcoat, is disposed of cheap "for cash," and find ready buyers. The auctions are also attended by men from the country who wish to pass away the time between dark and bed-time. From Ninth street to Eighteenth on Main, and, in fact, on all the principal streets, bars, rooms and restaurants are kept open until midnight, and in a few instances a night. They are patronized by the night crowd, and are largely assisting in liquidating the State debt on the smallest provocation. At many of these places billiards, pool, bagatelle, Jenny Lind, cards, dominoes, and other games occupy the attention of the habitués until the hour for closing arrives. Looking down Main street from the corner of Fifth, or Broad street from the corner of Twelfth, the gas-lights present a bright and beautiful sight. Our city is blessed both in the quantity and quality of its gas.

Contrary to what exists in most cities having either foreign or domestic commerce, our DOCK AND WHARVES present after dark a most peaceful appearance; the quietness of a church-yard pervades that locality, and scenes of disorder are infrequent. The character of the seafaring men casting anchor in this port is, as a general thing, excellent. Around the Cash Corner, on Twelfth and Grace streets, Tenth and Byrd streets, Pink alley, and in some other outlandish localities, at times the most depraved specimens of humanity congregate, dance to mean music, and drink meager whiskey until daylight dawns. A first-class row is raised and the police of the First district disperse the revellers.

The Theatre Comique, on Franklin street near Governor, is frequented nightly by those who do not generally aspire to more expensive amusements. On Saturday nights the attendance is very large. The performance is less objectionable than that at many similar places in other cities. Since the action of Judge Guigon, however, in refusing a license for liquor to be sold on the premises, the scene of disorder that in former times characterized the Comique have been few and far between.

AT THE DEPOTS.

At the southern depot, at Eighth and Byrd streets, on the arrival of the northern and the departure of the southern train, from 11 to about 11:20 P. M., a very busy scene is presented. For a time all is bustle and confusion. For a time the hall is crowded with people, and all quiet. The hackmen drive away, the loungers disperse, and the weary watchman is left alone in his glory. A similar scene is enacted at the Danville depot at 11:15 P. M., at which time the lightning express leaves for Greenville, and the night train for Broad street above Ninth, where a large retail business is done, and where most of the merchants reside over their places of business, the stores are kept open on pleasant nights until a very late hour. The only exception is the Theatre Comique, where they retired to the upper part of the building. They generally have a comfortable fire in the store, and this is a saving in fuel. Occasionally they capture a stray customer, and are repaid for the persistent patient with which they have awaited his coming.

WHEN THE THEATRE IS OPEN

the vicinity of Seventh and Broad streets presents an animated appearance. A great many persons who do not go in lounge around to see those who do. Then the place is infested with idle idlers, who, when the theatre is closed, go out between the acts for "a check." And the number who come out between the acts is legion, and all have different motives—some "to see a man," others to get a draught of fresh air, and the Theatre Comique, as they say, and some, dear, thoughtful fellows—only stop to get bon-bons or oranges for the ladies! They all generally return to their wives and sweethearts tucked with coffee or cloves, and although in the sweetest temper possible, it is not uncommonly happy to see them have and something to sour them. And if the affectionate ladies do not place implicit confidence in their plausible stories and hint that they are making game of them, the naughty men say nothing, but then they are caught on and on of another character that may be found around the Theatre is the impetuous or close-fisted individual who witnesses the performance through the apertures in the doors on the Seventh-street side. Some of these parties can be seen peering through these apertures on the most incident nights of the season. They amuse themselves between the acts whistling "Thou art so near and yet so far."

RICHMOND AFTER DARK.

HOW THE CITY LOOKS UNDER THE GAS-LIGHT—UP-TOWN AND DOWN-TOWN, AT THE WHARVES AND DEPOTS AND THE PLACES OF AMUSEMENT—THE HIGH AND LOW LIFE—A PEEP INTO THE STATION-HOUSES AND MUSIC HALLS—THE HOTELS AND PRINTING-OFFICES, &c., &c.

The staid business-man and merchant, the hard-working mechanic and laborer, and the professional man who prefers his study to worldly pleasures, who retires to his home when night throws her sombre mantle over the busy world, have but little idea of what is transpiring around them when they are wrapped in tranquil slumber. Never going out except to attend divine service, an occasional concert, or to the theatre, possibly to a religious meeting, of some benevolent order, they are in almost total ignorance of what life is in the heart of a large city after dark. Every city has its people who turn night into day—some from necessity, and some from choice—and every city, like individuals, has its well as well as its bright page in its life-history.

Richmond, while not without some claims as a metropolitan city, is fortunately without many of the distinguishing features that characterize and give an unenviable notoriety to other cities in the North, South, and West, with a smaller population and much less importance as a trade-center. Its gambling-houses are fewer in number, and conducted with little or no publicity; it has no low concert-halls, and but few dance-halls, and its disorders are very free from alteration and tumult.

IN THE LOWER PART OF THE CITY.

About dark, or very soon thereafter, the stores on Main street from Ninth to Fifteenth street are closed; from Fifteenth to Seventeenth street, on the south side, the clothing and boot and shoe stores and several drug stores remain open until a late hour; below Seventeenth street the number of stores is few and the amount of business done at night is considerable. In the lower part of the city several night-auctions at tract crowds, and every variety of article, from a paper of pins to an overcoat, is disposed of cheap "for cash," and find ready buyers. The auctions are also attended by men from the country who wish to pass away the time between dark and bed-time. From Ninth street to Eighteenth on Main, and, in fact, on all the principal streets, bars, rooms and restaurants are kept open until midnight, and in a few instances a night. They are patronized by the night crowd, and are largely assisting in liquidating the State debt on the smallest provocation. At many of these places billiards, pool, bagatelle, Jenny Lind, cards, dominoes, and other games occupy the attention of the habitués until the hour for closing arrives. Looking down Main street from the corner of Fifth, or Broad street from the corner of Twelfth, the gas-lights present a bright and beautiful sight. Our city is blessed both in the quantity and quality of its gas.

Contrary to what exists in most cities having either foreign or domestic commerce, our DOCK AND WHARVES present after dark a most peaceful appearance; the quietness of a church-yard pervades that locality, and scenes of disorder are infrequent. The character of the seafaring men casting anchor in this port is, as a general thing, excellent. Around the Cash Corner, on Twelfth and Grace streets, Tenth and Byrd streets, Pink alley, and in some other outlandish localities, at times the most depraved specimens of humanity congregate, dance to mean music, and drink meager whiskey until daylight dawns. A first-class row is raised and the police of the First district disperse the revellers.

The Theatre Comique, on Franklin street near Governor, is frequented nightly by those who do not generally aspire to more expensive amusements. On Saturday nights the attendance is very large. The performance is less objectionable than that at many similar places in other cities. Since the action of Judge Guigon, however, in refusing a license for liquor to be sold on the premises, the scene of disorder that in former times characterized the Comique have been few and far between.

AT THE DEPOTS.

At the southern depot, at Eighth and Byrd streets, on the arrival of the northern and the departure of the southern train, from 11 to about 11:20 P. M., a very busy scene is presented. For a time all is bustle and confusion. For a time the hall is crowded with people, and all quiet. The hackmen drive away, the loungers disperse, and the weary watchman is left alone in his glory. A similar scene is enacted at the Danville depot at 11:15 P. M., at which time the lightning express leaves for Greenville, and the night train for Broad street above Ninth, where a large retail business is done, and where most of the merchants reside over their places of business, the stores are kept open on pleasant nights until a very late hour. The only exception is the Theatre Comique, where they retired to the upper part of the building. They generally have a comfortable fire in the store, and this is a saving in fuel. Occasionally they capture a stray customer, and are repaid for the persistent patient with which they have awaited his coming.

WHEN THE THEATRE IS OPEN

the vicinity of Seventh and Broad streets presents an animated appearance. A great many persons who do not go in lounge around to see those who do. Then the place is infested with idle idlers, who, when the theatre is closed, go out between the acts for "a check." And the number who come out between the acts is legion, and all have different motives—some "to see a man," others to get a draught of fresh air, and the Theatre Comique, as they say, and some, dear, thoughtful fellows—only stop to get bon-bons or oranges for the ladies! They all generally return to their wives and sweethearts tucked with coffee or cloves, and although in the sweetest temper possible, it is not uncommonly happy to see them have and something to sour them. And if the affectionate ladies do not place implicit confidence in their plausible stories and hint that they are making game of them, the naughty men say nothing, but then they are caught on and on of another character that may be found around the Theatre is the impetuous or close-fisted individual who witnesses the performance through the apertures in the doors on the Seventh-street side. Some of these parties can be seen peering through these apertures on the most incident nights of the season. They amuse themselves between the acts whistling "Thou art so near and yet so far."

AT THE STATION-HOUSES,

particularly on Saturday nights, a number of petty offenders are run in. The crimes for which these parties are arrested rarely exceed in magnitude that of indulging too frequently in ardent spirits, and committing the indiscretions consequent upon such a course of folly. Many of these arrested are released as soon as they cool off, others fined a small sum, and others still sent to the Police Court.

Some amusing and some very sad scenes may at times be witnessed at the Police stations after dark. It is only in the heart of the city that there are signs of life and activity after nightfall. On the suburbs a perfect stillness prevails, only broken at times by the baying of some honest watchdog, or the half-demented, half-smothered cry of some chance passer-by, who, finding himself awake, crows because he has nothing else to do.

AT THE HOTELS.

Gathered in the parlors, the billiard-room, and the lobby, can always be found, not only the transient and permanent guests, but persons from all sections of the city, who gather in knots to talk over the news of the day and to discuss the great political problems that may be agitating the country. Here can be seen life in all of its phases; many men of many minds and opinions can be heard on all leading questions of the day and hour. When the General Assembly is in night session the galleries, lobbies, and the corridors are crowded with statesmen, who take an active interest in the affairs of the State. Many of them look upon the night as a time of regret, and go home only to return to their post as early as possible the next day.

At the Christian Women's Mission, on Franklin street, a party of self-sacrificing spirits are engaged in conducting a night-school and in teaching both the old and young ideas how to shoot, and deserve the thanks of the community for their worthy endeavors. At most of the many churches with which our good city is favored services are held Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday nights. These services are well attended, the Word is expounded, and the people exhorted to lay up their treasures in Heaven, and not to place their whole affections on the things of this world.

"Where all that's bright must fade—
The brightest best the fleetest."
On the Basin and Byrd Island, where in former days there were to be seen the rumors of war, all is now quiet at night. The boatman of the present day does not dance and sing like unto the one of the olden time, but at a seasonable hour retires to his downy couch—generally a plank. In the summer time, however, the happy boatmen, away. The only thing in this vicinity that disturbs the quiet of the still night is the busy noise of the great

GALLERIES AND HALLS.

which all through the "long, stilly hours" of the milling season grand exceedingly fine the best that all Virginia produces. Rocketts, Scramenville, Dutchmont, and other places remain open until a late hour; below Seventeenth street the number of stores is few and the amount of business done at night is considerable. In the lower part of the city several night-auctions at tract crowds, and every variety of article, from a paper of pins to an overcoat, is disposed of cheap "for cash," and find ready buyers. The auctions are also attended by men from the country who wish to pass away the time between dark and bed-time. From Ninth street to Eighteenth on Main, and, in fact, on all the principal streets, bars, rooms and restaurants are kept open until midnight, and in a few instances a night. They are patronized by the night crowd, and are largely assisting in liquidating the State debt on the smallest provocation. At many of these places billiards, pool, bagatelle, Jenny Lind, cards, dominoes, and other games occupy the attention of the habitués until the hour for closing arrives. Looking down Main street from the corner of Fifth, or Broad street from the corner of Twelfth, the gas-lights present a bright and beautiful sight. Our city is blessed both in the quantity and quality of its gas.

Contrary to what exists in most cities having either foreign or domestic commerce, our DOCK AND WHARVES present after dark a most peaceful appearance; the quietness of a church-yard pervades that locality, and scenes of disorder are infrequent. The character of the seafaring men casting anchor in this port is, as a general thing, excellent. Around the Cash Corner, on Twelfth and Grace streets, Tenth and Byrd streets, Pink alley, and in some other outlandish localities, at times the most depraved specimens of humanity congregate, dance to mean music, and drink meager whiskey until daylight dawns. A first-class row is raised and the police of the First district disperse the revellers.

The Theatre Comique, on Franklin street near Governor, is frequented nightly by those who do not generally aspire to more expensive amusements. On Saturday nights the attendance is very large. The performance is less objectionable than that at many similar places in other cities. Since the action of Judge Guigon, however, in refusing a license for liquor to be sold on the premises, the scene of disorder that in former times characterized the Comique have been few and far between.

AT THE DEPOTS.

At the southern depot, at Eighth and Byrd streets, on the arrival of the northern and the departure of the southern train, from 11 to about 11:20 P. M., a very busy scene is presented. For a time all is bustle and confusion. For a time the hall is crowded with people, and all quiet. The hackmen drive away, the loungers disperse, and the weary watchman is left alone in his glory. A similar scene is enacted at the Danville depot at 11:15 P. M., at which time the lightning express leaves for Greenville, and the night train for Broad street above Ninth, where a large retail business is done, and where most of the merchants reside over their places of business, the stores are kept open on pleasant nights until a very late hour. The only exception is the Theatre Comique, where they retired to the upper part of the building. They generally have a comfortable fire in the store, and this is a saving in fuel. Occasionally they capture a stray customer, and are repaid for the persistent patient with which they have awaited his coming.

RICHMOND AFTER DARK.

HOW THE CITY LOOKS UNDER THE GAS-LIGHT—UP-TOWN AND DOWN-TOWN, AT THE WHARVES AND DEPOTS AND THE PLACES OF AMUSEMENT—THE HIGH AND LOW LIFE—A PEEP INTO THE STATION-HOUSES AND MUSIC HALLS—THE HOTELS AND PRINTING-OFFICES, &c., &c.

The staid business-man and merchant, the hard-working mechanic and laborer, and the professional man who prefers his study to worldly pleasures, who retires to his home when night throws her sombre mantle over the busy world, have but little idea of what is transpiring around them when they are wrapped in tranquil slumber. Never going out except to attend divine service, an occasional concert, or to the theatre, possibly to a religious meeting, of some benevolent order, they are in almost total ignorance of what life is in the heart of a large city after dark. Every city has its people who turn night into day—some from necessity, and some from choice—and every city, like individuals, has its well as well as its bright page in its life-history.

Richmond, while not without some claims as a metropolitan city, is fortunately without many of the distinguishing features that characterize and give an unenviable notoriety to other cities in the North, South, and West, with a smaller population and much less importance as a trade-center. Its gambling-houses are fewer in number, and conducted with little or no publicity; it has no low concert-halls, and but few dance-halls, and its disorders are very free from alteration and tumult.

IN THE LOWER PART OF THE CITY.

About dark, or very soon thereafter, the stores on Main street from Ninth to Fifteenth street are closed; from Fifteenth to Seventeenth street, on the south side, the clothing and boot and shoe stores and several drug stores remain open until a late hour; below Seventeenth street the number of stores is few and the amount of business done at night is considerable. In the lower part of the city several night-auctions at tract crowds, and every variety of article, from a paper of pins to an overcoat, is disposed of cheap "for cash," and find ready buyers. The auctions are also attended by men from the country who wish to pass away the time between dark and bed-time. From Ninth street to Eighteenth on Main, and, in fact, on all the principal streets, bars, rooms and restaurants are kept open until midnight, and in a few instances a night. They are patronized by the night crowd, and are largely assisting in liquidating the State debt on the smallest provocation. At many of these places billiards, pool, bagatelle, Jenny Lind, cards, dominoes, and other games occupy the attention of the habitués until the hour for closing arrives. Looking down Main street from the corner of Fifth, or Broad street from the corner of Twelfth, the gas-lights present a bright and beautiful sight. Our city is blessed both in the quantity and quality of its gas.

Contrary to what exists in most cities having either foreign or domestic commerce, our DOCK AND WHARVES present after dark a most peaceful appearance; the quietness of a church-yard pervades that locality, and scenes of disorder are infrequent. The character of the seafaring men casting anchor in this port is, as a general thing, excellent. Around the Cash Corner, on Twelfth and Grace streets, Tenth and Byrd streets, Pink alley, and in some other outlandish localities, at times the most depraved specimens of humanity congregate, dance to mean music, and drink meager whiskey until daylight dawns. A first-class row is raised and the police of the First district disperse the revellers.

The Theatre Comique, on Franklin street near Governor, is frequented nightly by those who do not generally aspire to more expensive amusements. On Saturday nights the attendance is very large. The performance is less objectionable than that at many similar places in other cities. Since the action of Judge Guigon, however, in refusing a license for liquor to be sold on the premises, the scene of disorder that in former times characterized the Comique have been few and far between.

AT THE DEPOTS.

At the southern depot, at Eighth and Byrd streets, on the arrival of the northern and the departure of the southern train, from 11 to about 11:20 P. M., a very busy scene is presented. For a time all is bustle and confusion. For a time the hall is crowded with people, and all quiet. The hackmen drive away, the loungers disperse, and the weary watchman is left alone in his glory. A similar scene is enacted at the Danville depot at 11:15 P. M., at which time the lightning express leaves for Greenville, and the night train for Broad street above Ninth, where a large retail business is done, and where most of the merchants reside over their places of business, the stores are kept open on pleasant nights until a very late hour. The only exception is the Theatre Comique, where they retired to the upper part of the building. They generally have a comfortable fire in the store, and this is a saving in fuel. Occasionally they capture a stray customer, and are repaid for the persistent patient with which they have awaited his coming.

WHEN THE THEATRE IS OPEN

the vicinity of Seventh and Broad streets presents an animated appearance. A great many persons who do not go in lounge around to see those who do. Then the place is infested with idle idlers, who, when the theatre is closed, go out between the acts for "a check." And the number who come out between the acts is legion, and all have different motives—some "to see a man," others to get a draught of fresh air, and the Theatre Comique, as they say, and some, dear, thoughtful fellows—only stop to get bon-bons or oranges for the ladies! They all generally return to their wives and sweethearts tucked with coffee or cloves, and although in the sweetest temper possible, it is not uncommonly happy to see them have and something to sour them. And if the affectionate ladies do not place implicit confidence in their plausible stories and hint that they are making game of them, the naughty men say nothing, but then they are caught on and on of another character that may be found around the Theatre is the impetuous or close-fisted individual who witnesses the performance through the apertures in the doors on the Seventh-street side. Some of these parties can be seen peering through these apertures on the most incident nights of the season. They amuse themselves between the acts whistling "Thou art so near and yet so far."

AT THE STATION-HOUSES,

particularly on Saturday nights, a number of petty offenders are run in. The crimes for which these parties are arrested rarely exceed in magnitude that of indulging too frequently in ardent spirits, and committing the indiscretions consequent upon such a course of folly. Many of these arrested are released as soon as they cool off, others